

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 03039 291426Z

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ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-04 IO-04 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-01 H-01 NEA-06 AF-04 ARA-06

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAGR, UN, FAO, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH POSITION IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: EC BRUSSELS A-306

1. SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSING DANISH POSITION FOR WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE, KEY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL VOICED DANISH
SUPPORT FOR THE EC POSITION BUT MADE CLEAR THAT THIS SUPPORT
WAS NOT PROFOUND IN SEVERAL RESPECTS. HE EXPRESSED RESER-
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VATIONS ABOUT THE CREATION OF A WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY. HE

FELT THE CONFERENCE MUST DEAL ONLY IN GENERALITIES AND THAT THE HARD DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE LEFT FOR A SMALLER GROUP. HE VIEWED FOOD SECURITY AS THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE BEFORE THE CONFERENCE AND IMPLIED THAT DENMARK RETAINED MISGIVINGS ABOUT EFFORTS TO REACH PRICE STABILIZING INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. HE SAW FUNDING AS THE MAJOR UNDERLYING PROBLEM FOR ALL OF THE ISSUES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE H. J. KRISTENSEN, IN REVIEWING THE EVOLVING DANISH POSITION FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, SAW GETTING AGREEMENT ON A FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM AS BEING THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE EC POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN SET, HE SAID THAT THIS REFLECTED THE FRENCH LINE AND IMPLIED THAT IT WAS MORE A MATTER OF WORDS THAN SUBSTANCE. HE FURTHER IMPLIED THAT DENMARK HAS MANY OF THE SAME MISGIVINGS ABOUT RIGID INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS THAT THE US HAS AND HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE EC POSITION WOULD PREVAIL. NEVERTHELESS, DENMARK MUST GO ALONG WITH THE EC POSITION AT THE OUTSET AND THE EC IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THE BOERMA PLAN INITIALLY AT LEAST. THE DANES SEEM TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE REAL FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY DECISIONS MUST BE MADE IN A SMALLER GROUP THAN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THAT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF SHOULD DEAL ONLY WITH GENERALITIES AND GOALS.

3. KRISTENSEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DENMARK HAS CHANGED ITS THINKING ON THE FOOD AID CONVENTION IN RECENT WEEKS AND SAID THAT DENMARK'S PRESENT WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IS MUCH MORE REALISTIC THAN ITS PREVIOUS OPPOSITION. THE DANES CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT BETTER COORDINATION OF FOOD AID IS NEEDED AND TEND TO FEEL THAT THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IS THE BEST VEHICLE. IN ANY EVENT, THE DANISH POSITION WILL BE IN BASIC SUPPORT OF FOOD AID.

4. HIGH PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INCREASED LDC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BUT THE DANES REALISE THIS IS LONG TERM EFFORT. THEY FEEL MORE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AGRICULTURE AND LESS TO OTHER FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT. WHILE LDC'S MAY BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP PRIORITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, IN REALITY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE THE GUIDANCE AS WELL AS THE FUNDING. THE DANES DO NOT SEE REAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH FACILITIES SUCH AS A LAND RESEARCH CENTER. ALSO THEY DO NOT VIEW FERTILIZER AS A MAJOR LONG TERM PROBLEM AS THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL FINANCING OF NEW FACTORIES WILL LARGELY TAKE CARE OF THE FERTILIZER PROBLEM. IN GENERAL DENMARK SUPPORTS PAST AND CURRENT APPROACHES BY THE US, WORLD BANK, UNDP, FAO, ETC., BUT DOES FEEL THAT MORE COORDINATION IS NEEDED.

5. KRISTENSEN EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT A WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY AND A CONCERN THAT THE EVOLUTION OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WOULD UNDERMINE THE FAO. HE IMPLIED DANISH OPPOSITION TO THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONS UNLESS THERE IS ACTUALLY SUFFICIENT NEW MONEY FOR THEM TO REALLY DO SOMETHING NEW.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE SAID FAO HAS TO DO A BETTER JOB THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST. HE ALSO SAW PROBLEMS WITH FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF UN AGENCIES IN LIGHT OF THE MAJOR PROBLEM OF KEEPING THE PRESENT UN AGENCIES IN STEP.

6. THE DANES FEEL IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT A SEPARATE CONFERENCE ITEM AND COMMITTEE ON TRADE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BUT THEY HOPE TRADE ISSUES CAN BE SET ASIDE WITHOUT MAJOR PROBLEMS.

7. HAVING REVIEWED THE FOREGOING, KRISTENSEN SAW THE REAL UNDERLYING PROBLEM AS HOW TO FINANCE FURTHER TECHNICAL OR FOOD AID TO THE LDC'S. NO ONE IN DENMARK HAS KNOWLEDGE OF HOW THE DC'S WILL GET ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION OF SUCH ASSISTANCE. TO DATE THE OIL STATES HAVE BEEN SILENT AND WITHOUT THEM NOT MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE. THE COMMODITIES WILL HAVE TO COME PRIMARILY FROM THE US, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA AND HE DOES NOT SEE THESE COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. HE FEELS THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WILL HAVE TO AVOID COMMITMENTS TO GREATER EXPENDITURES.
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